

Dear parents/teachers/educators,

Children nationwide will take part in a grassroots movement to celebrate America's parks *through play* on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, as they participate in National Park Trust's (NPT) third annual National Kids to Parks™ Day (KTP).

**This year NPT is once again hosting the Kids to Park Day School Contest!** The purpose of the contest is to help teachers engage their students with their local parks. This national contest is open to all schools across the country and in the U.S. territories. **Students can submit proposals for a KTP event at a park in their community.** NPT will award scholarships up to the amount of \$1,000 to winning entries for each class. Scholarships will be used by the winners to implement their KTP event during the week leading up to May 18<sup>th</sup>. **Deadline for entries is Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Winners will be announced Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**

To enter:

- Students must select a park near their school
- The students must research the park to find out what outdoor recreation activities and educational opportunities are available
- Students must complete the two-page entry form attached
- One entry form can be submitted per class; more than one entry form can be submitted per school
- We want to hear from the students, so help them develop their ideas, but allow them to complete the proposal in their own words
  - If the students are unable to complete the proposal for any reason, please contact William Schrack at NPT
- Be creative, video entries and artwork are encouraged!
- Cover letters from teachers are also encouraged but not required

Contest winners will receive:

- Funding for one park experience including school bus transportation, healthy snacks, park related fees, or supplies
- Official award certificate and KTP stickers for students
- A classroom Buddy Bison, our pint-size wooly mascot, to take on your park adventure
- A featured news story on our website and e-newsletter

Winning submissions must agree to:

- Send at least 3-5 photos from your park trip with your students and Buddy Bison. **Photos must be received by June 1<sup>st</sup>**
  - Please note, any photos received will be used only in NPT's publications, including our website and e-newsletters, and in materials for educational purposes. We only use first names of students if provided.
- 1-2 paragraph summary or reflection, preferably from a student, about their park experience (one summary per class is required, but more are welcomed; **received by June 1<sup>st</sup>**)

The entry form and all materials can be sent or emailed to:

**Billy Schrack**  
**Education Director**  
**National Park Trust**

301-279-7275 Ext. 17  
[william@parktrust.org](mailto:william@parktrust.org)  
401 E. Jefferson Street  
Suite 203  
Rockville, MD 20850

Your contest entry must incorporate **all 3 of these categories:**

1) Healthy Living: How are you going to promote a healthy lifestyle while visiting the park?

For example will you:

- take a hike
- play on the playground
- run a race
- row a boat
- bike around the park trails
- other

2) Education: What can you learn while at the park?

What can you learn about the park's (pick one or more):

- history
- name or creation
- science
- ecosystems
- animals
- lakes, rivers or other bodies of water
- other

3) Stewardship: How can you preserve the park?

You can take action by (pick one or more):

- planting trees
- laying mulch
- cleaning up the park
- raising funds to donate to a local park (e.g. bake sale for Buddy Bison)
- participating in Pennies for Parks (see attached)
- writing letters to elected officials about preserving parks
- helping with trail construction
- other

Buddy Bison says, "Good luck to all the classes participating!"



# Class Entry Form

## National Kids to Parks Day School Contest 2013

**Contest Deadline: March 1<sup>st</sup>**

We encourage the students to submit the entry form in their own words. Winners will be announced by March 18<sup>th</sup>. Good luck!

Submitted by:	School Information
Number of Students Participating and Grade:	Name of School:
Classroom Teacher:	Best Contact # and Time of Day: (Cell Phone Optional)
Park Name:	School Address:
Teacher's Email:	

How are you going to promote a healthy life style while visiting the park?

What do you plan on learning while at the park?

How can you leave the park a better place? How can you be a steward for the park?

Why do you think your class should be selected as the National Kids to Park™ Day Contest Winner?

## **Budget for Park Visit**

*Teachers- please complete the brief budget for your park trip*

Item	Cost/Explanation
<b>Bus/transportation</b> -contact your bus company	
<b>Healthy Snacks</b> -what would it cost to have healthy snacks for the class?	
<b>Refreshments</b> -case of water or juice	
<b>Park Experience/other fees</b> -canoe rentals, entrance fee, guided tour, or other park fees	
<b>Stewardship Project</b> -cleaning equipment, trash bags, mulch, vinyl gloves or other supplies	
<b>Other</b>	
<b>For assistance with the budget contact:</b> Billy Schrack <a href="mailto:william@parktrust.org">william@parktrust.org</a> Education Director                301-279-7275 ext. 17 National Park Trust	Total:

Students are encouraged to be creative when submitting the entry form. Videos, pictures and drawings are encouraged to supplement the proposal. **The entry form may be typed or handwritten with legible writing.** All materials received could be used by NPT for education purposes.